

Below is my comment regarding the proposal to modify the ban on cell phone use on commercial airplanes...

The FCC, and FAA, should NOT allow in-flight cell phone use on commercial flights, regardless of whether or not it is technically safe. One aspect of this that might get overlooked is the social implications of allowing cell phone use in flight. I feel that allowing cell phone use while in flight would be an EXTREMELY bad idea and disruptive for everyone. As a frequent business traveler, its bad enough now that I'm crammed into a plane and have to listen to the person next to me (and in front of and behind me) talk on their cell phones for 20 minutes during boarding and pre-taxi phase, as well as during disembarking. If cell phone use were allowed, then I would be forced to listen to someone elses conversation for several hours perhaps, and that would make me EXTREMELY irritated. Would you want to be trapped in airplane for several hours and have to listen to several people around you chat on their cell phones the entire time? I think not. In theory, cell phone etiquette should prevent people from extensively talking on cells when in such close proximity to others. However, in reality, most people care only about themselves, don't give a rats butt about anyone around them.

The other adverse side affect would be an exponential increase in noise. Everyone would be trying to talk over everyone else, including the noise of the plane, and this would dramatically increase the overall noise level on the plane.

In summary, even if it is determined that in-flight cell phone use is safe, it would be a social catastrophe if this got approved by the FCC. Bottom line.... do NOT allow cell phones to be used in-flight on commercial airplanes.

Thank you.